

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATIONS TO LINCOLN  
UNIVERSITY'S PUBLIC RADIO  
STATION KJLU-FM

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2006*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the KJLU-FM public radio station of Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. KJLU was named Black College Radios Station of the Year at the 28th Annual Black College Radio and Television Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

KJLU, founded in 1973, was presented with the Station of the Year award for excellence in broadcasting on April 1, 2006. The station had previously been honored as Station of the Year in 2003, with the Program Director of the Year award in 2004, and as Station with the Most Community Involvement in 2005. KJLU continues to help the community by aiding in local fund-raising and recording and distributing public service announcements. Mike Downey, one of KJLU's station producers, was recently named United Way's Missouri Volunteer of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating the students and staff at KJLU for their accomplishments and in wishing them luck in all their future endeavors.

EVACUEE STUDY FINDS  
DECLINING HEALTH

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in acknowledgment of a recent article in the New York Times which detailed the declining health of Hurricane Katrina survivors. The piece reiterated that we must act now to aid the many sufferers in Louisiana. Eight months since the disaster and many are still without prescription drugs, adequate housing, food, and security. This is not the type of problem that will heal itself in the matter of a few weeks or months, but of a timetable unknown to us.

It is a glaring contradiction to say that we as members of the federal government have served the people of New Orleans to the best of our ability. Not when the rates of mental disorders, and many chronic conditions such as asthma are on a steady rise as the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University and the Children's Health Fund concluded in their study of the health impacts upon the Katrina survivors. Because of the lack of prescription medications and health insurance, people are not able to get the medical treatment that they need.

Among the findings in the study, 34% of displaced children suffer from disorders such as

asthma, anxiety and behavioral problems, compared with 25% in urban areas of Louisiana before the storm. 14% of those children have gone without prescription medication at least 3 months before this study which was conducted in February, compared to 2% before the storm and the numbers do not lie.

We have children in Louisiana who have missed huge blocks of class time because families are moving so much to provide better lives for them, with an average of 3.5 times since the storm. There is no reason why a woman caring for seven school-age grandchildren, none who were in school during the time of the survey, was battling high blood pressure, diabetes and leukemia without any medical treatment. She was later admitted to the hospital for pains that she has had since January. She said that it had become "unbearable", and nothing is making it easier for people just like her.

We must make it easier for people to receive the necessary care that they need. The study highlighted the fact that both Congress and the State of Louisiana eased eligibility requirements for Medicaid after the storm, and because each state sets its own guidelines, some families who got food stamps and assistance in other states were no longer eligible when they returned home and that is just unacceptable.

Trauma related disorders caused by Hurricane Katrina will have lasting impact on the lives of these children. Future American generations will have to shoulder the burden left behind from the previous. Dr. Irwin Redlener, the director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Mailman and co-founder of the Children's Health Fund made it clear that "children do not have the ability to absorb six or nine months of high levels of stress and undiagnosed or untreated medical problems" without long-term consequences. Our mental health system is not prepared to handle the amount of care it now faces unless more treatment dollars are funneled into the system.

I enter into the RECORD this article from the New York Times published on April 18, 2006 for its insightful look at the real problems in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The longer we wait to enforce legislation the more suffering these Americans will have to endure. I think it is safe to say that the study told us in conclusive numerical evidence what we already knew in story form according to Erin Brewer, the medical director of the Office of Public Health at the Louisiana Department of Health. The facts are clearly laid out and we no longer can afford to ignore them.

[From the New York Times, Apr. 18, 2006]

EVACUEE STUDY FINDS DECLINING HEALTH

(By Shaila Dewan)

Families displaced by Hurricane Katrina are suffering from mental disorders and chronic conditions like *asthma* and from a lack of prescription medication and health insurance at rates that are much higher than average, a new study has found.

The study, conducted by the Mailman School of Public Health at *Columbia University* and the Children's Health Fund, is the

first to examine the health issues of those living in housing provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Based on face-to-face interviews with more than 650 families living in trailers or hotels, it provides a grim portrait of the hurricane's effects on some of the poorest victims, showing gaps in the tattered safety net pieced together from government and private efforts.

Among the study's findings: 34 percent of displaced children suffer from conditions like asthma, anxiety and behavioral problems, compared with 25 percent of children in urban Louisiana before the storm. Fourteen percent of them went without prescribed medication at some point during the three months before the survey, which was conducted in February, compared with 2 percent before the hurricane.

Nearly a quarter of school-age children were either not enrolled in school at the time of the survey or had missed at least 10 days of school in the previous month. Their families had moved an average of 3.5 times since the storm.

Their parents and guardians were doing no better. Forty-four percent said they had no health insurance, many because they lost their jobs after the storm, and nearly half were managing at least one chronic condition like *diabetes*, high blood pressure or *cancer*. Thirty-seven percent described their health as "fair" or "poor," compared with 10 percent before the hurricane.

More than half of the mothers and other female caregivers scored "very low" on a commonly used *mental health* screening exam, which is consistent with clinical disorders like *depression* or anxiety. Those women were more than twice as likely to report that at least one of their children had developed an emotional or behavioral problem since the storm.

Instead of being given a chance to recover, the study says, "Children and families who have been displaced by the hurricanes are being pushed further toward the edge."

Officials at the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals said the study's findings were consistent with what they had seen in the field.

"I think it told us in number form what we knew in story form," said Erin Brewer, the medical director of the Office of Public Health at the department. "We're talking about a state that had the lowest access to primary care in the country before the storm. And a population within that context who were really, really medically underserved and terribly socially vulnerable."

Ms. Brewer said that some of the trailer sites were regularly visited by mobile health clinics, but acknowledged that such programs were not universally available. Neither Congress nor the State of Louisiana eased eligibility requirements for Medicaid after the storm, and because each state sets its own guidelines, some families who received insurance and food stamps in other states were no longer eligible when they returned home.

While state officials said \$100 million in federal block grants was in the pipeline for primary care and mental health treatment, the study's authors said the need was urgent.

"Children do not have the ability to absorb six or nine months of high levels of stress and undiagnosed or untreated medical problems" without long-term consequences, said

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